

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2362 – SB 2224

March 13, 2012

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014350): Authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine the length of transitional child care assistance for a caretaker relative who becomes ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. Exempts a caretaker relative who becomes ineligible for TANF for failure to comply with work requirements from being eligible to receive transitional child care assistance. Authorizes, rather than requires, DHS to provide for transportation assistance if needed to participate in required activities under a personal responsibility plan. Requires DHS to first utilize available community transportation resources before providing such assistance. Authorizes DHS to determine the period of time that temporary assistance may be terminated for failure to comply with child support or work plan requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Other Fiscal Impact – Authorizing the DHS to determine the length of transitional child care assistance and the necessity of providing transportation assistance to TANF recipients on a case-by-case basis will result in an undeterminable recurring decrease in expenditures. According to the Department, these funds will be reused for the TANF program and will allow the Department to respond to cuts in federal spending or possible unfunded mandates in a fiscally responsible manner, while also reinforcing to clients the importance of compliance with the Families First work requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Under current law, a caretaker relative who becomes ineligible for TANF for any reason, other than a failure to cooperate with child support obligations, is eligible for 18 months of transitional child care assistance.
- Further, the personal responsibility plan is required to provide for transportation services for those individuals who are receiving benefits and are participating and not exempt from work activities required under this part for benefit recipients.

- This bill would provide DHS with the flexibility to make an assessment of participant needs, provide services accordingly and prevent the Department from expending resources on services that the Department deems unnecessary.
- According to DHS, this will result in an undeterminable decrease in state expenditures that will allow the Department to respond to cuts in federal spending or possible unfunded mandates in a fiscally responsible manner, while also reinforcing to clients the importance of compliance with the Families First work requirements.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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